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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Read the First Amendment, Mr. Casey

Somebody should send CIA Director William Casey a copy of the First Amendment. Its blanket prohibition of government interference is absolutely clear.

Mr. Casey's threats to prosecute media organizations for disclosing classified communications intelligence under an obscure Cold War statute are mere bluster. Even the present conservative-minded Supreme Court can read the First Amendment fairly enough to prevent this sort of unconstitutional assault on freedom of the press.

The CIA's request to the Justice Department to prosecute NBC News for its report on an eavesdropping program by U.S. submarines inside

Soviet harbors is particularly inexplicable. This information was given to the Russians by accused spy Ronald Pelton, according to federal prosecutors. If the target of this operation already knows its particulars, why shouldn't the American public also know? What is the point of classifying information known to our adversaries? Who does Mr. Casey want to remain ignorant, the KGB or the American people?

Thank God, and the Framers of the Constitution, that the First Amendment protects us from William Casey and all the potential censors within the government.

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